



## NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

For Immediate Release: July 20, 2004  
Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/ 232-3396  
Angie Nussmeyer, 317/ 233-5050

### ***Three more East Central Indiana companies enroll in Kernan's Indiana@Work***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has committed \$21,205 so that three East Central Indiana companies can enroll in Indiana@Work.

Marion's **Bradner Village Health Care Center**, Elwood's **ELSA** and Portland's **Jay Products** are partnering with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to bring Indiana@Work, the state's new workforce development initiative, to its facilities. Between the three companies, up to 241 new and existing workers will receive skills assessments and a total of eight job profiles will be performed.

"While other states were waiting out the recession, Indiana went on offense and took steps to improve our state economy through tax restructuring and initiatives like Energize Indiana," said Kernan. "Creating opportunities for business investment and job growth also provides opportunities for Hoosier in the workforce. That's where Indiana@Work comes in with programs to match workers skills with available jobs.

"I am happy to see these three companies have signed on to this program and I am certain that it will be beneficial to their employees and the state"

Grant County's **Bradner Village Health Care Center** has already utilized \$8,320 from Indiana@Work. With this commitment, the facility was able to profile two jobs -- certified nursing assistants and licensed nurses, and to assess 200 people. Bradner Village also will use an additional \$7,240 of Indiana@Work funds to profile two positions in its environmental services and dietary departments as well as assess 150 people. Established in 1972, the 250-bed multi-service nursing facility is family owned and operated. Services for dependent seniors include sub acute/skilled nursing care, Alzheimer's care, intermediate/custodial care, residential/assisted living and home health care.

"We are excited about partnering with DWD to bring Indiana@Work to Grant County. The WorkKeys program will allow us to hire skilled and qualified applicants as licensed nurses and screen applicants for our certified nursing training classes. We will also be utilizing the WorkKeys program to recruit staff for our environmental services and dietary departments," said Deborah Raver, the facility's human resources manager.

With \$2,280 in funding, **ELSA LLC** will profile its maintenance technician specialist position and utilize the profile to assess the skills of its 13 incumbent technicians. The company, located in Madison County, employs more than 500 people who manufacture automotive components such as fuel tanks, exhaust systems and structural components for OEM customers. The company's major clients include Subaru Indiana Automotive Inc. and Mitsubishi Motors of North America Inc.

"We are very grateful to the state and to DWD for this assistance in helping us profile this position. This is a critical process in helping us maintain our competitive edge in this rapidly growing, high tech field," said Gaye Kinnett, ELSA's director of human resources.

-more-

East central/ add 1

**Jay Products**, located in Jay County, will assess 78 of its employees against five job profiles because of \$11,685 dedicated through Indiana@Work. The five positions being profiled are production operator, maintenance, set up, tool room and administration. A subsidiary of Blissfield Manufacturing, the company fabricates heat transfer systems and manufactures oil coolers, condensers and compressors.

"Having a well-skilled workforce is critical in our industry. The skills assessments provide our employees an opportunity to objectively evaluate their skill levels. As a human resources manager, the assessments will allow me to better evaluate the types of training our employees need in order to make them more competitive," said Jay Products' Pamela Reynolds.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 300 job profiles since its inception in January.

WorkKeys®, a comprehensive testing system developed by ACT®, identify an individual's skill level. Based on the assessment scores, Indiana@Work then matches the individual to available jobs that require similar skills. The program also offers financial support to fill in any skill gaps through training.

Job profiling, the employer segment of Indiana@Work, helps businesses identify skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with existing staff to define the duties and skills needed to perform in each occupation and together they create specific job profiles. Those profiles are then used in the hiring and placement process.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 888-465-4616 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

###